

**Sacramento
Valley
Landowners
Association**

99-174
JUN 15 1999

*Dick Daniel
Needs
rapid
response.*

June 10, 1999

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

On behalf of the members of our association, I am writing to express our concern regarding certain land acquisitions in the Sacramento River corridor. There are parcels of farmed agricultural ground that are not adjacent to the Sacramento River which have been selected for acquisition.

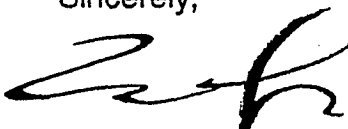
Our concern is for the neighbors who wish to maintain a viable farming operation on their property. They will ultimately be dealing with rodents, deer, trespassers, and poachers on their farming operations. Rodents and deer typically live in the refuge areas and feed in the agricultural areas. Furthermore, they could end up being landlocked with refuges on all sides.

We would appreciate a response from you as to CALFED's policy regarding the continuation of normal farming practices such as aerial or ground application of farm chemicals on ag parcels once this happens. We would also like assurance that existing levees that protect neighboring farmers are maintained.

The agencies and organizations participating in these land acquisitions need to hold landowner informational meetings stating what their long-range plans are with regards to how much land is desired to be purchased and how far back from the river purchases will be made. This will assist viable farming operations plan for their future. One non-profit organization has already agreed with this informational meeting idea for landowners. This is an excellent way to resolve any misconceptions that may exist.

We feel there will be hardships for farmers who could get caught between refuges and they need to be kept whole. There needs to be consideration and mitigation for this economic issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Les Heringer
President

Barbara LeVake, Executive Director

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